THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such proposal has been submitted by the Government of India to the World Bank. However, a National Workshop on "Challenges of Water Development and Management in India and Future Strategy" was organized by this Ministry during January, 13-14, 2005 in which a high level delegation from the World Bank also participated. During the workshop, priority areas were indentified which also included the 'revival and restoration of water bodies'.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of water bodies

143. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Cabinet has approved a national project for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the project and the contribution of the Central Government and the State Governments; and

(d) what are the aims and objectives of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the scheme envisages taking up pilot projects in one or two districts in States during the remaining period of Xth Five Year Plan. The States shall take up restoration of water bodies having original culturable command areas of 40 ha. to 2000 ha. Repair of structures and other works can be taken up under the project. There will be district-level implementation committee for implementation of the district project in which district collector will be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be a reputed NGO to be nominated by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India.

(c) the National Project is approved for a total outlay of Rs. 300

crores under the State Sector. the contribution from the Cenre will be Rs. 225 crores in the form of grant and the State shall contribute Rs. 75 crores (Funding ratio 3:1).

(d) The aims and the objectives of the project are to restore and augment storage capacity of water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. The main thrust of the project is to restore the storage capacity of the water body.

Constitution of a special cell on inter-linking of rivers

144. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has decided to constitute a Special Cell on inter-linking of rivers in place of Task Force;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had disbanded the high profile Task Force set up;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all the 30 links proposed under the inter-linking plans are estimated at Rs.560,000 crores; and

(d) if so, how Government plans to generate this much required fund for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the Task Force on Inter-linking of Rivers (TF-ILR) has been wound up with effect from 31.12.2004, as TF-ILR had completed its mandated task after submitting the Action Plans-I & II to the Government. A Special Cell under the Ministry of Water Resources has been constituted to look after the residual routine work of TF-ILR and for taking follow up action on the ILR programme.

(c) As per preliminary estimate the total cost of all the 30 links is Rs.5,60,000 crores at 2002-03 price level. However the realistic cost of these links shall be known after preparation of their Detailed Project Reports (DRRs).

(d) According to Action Plan-II of TF-ILR, the characteristics of the programme provide opportunities for funding through a combination of appropriate private funding, public-private partnership and pure public funding.